



## Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

### Release Highlights: July 31, 2006

#### MONTANA

##### 2004 Nonemployer Statistics

<http://ceic.mt.gov/cbep.asp>

Montana's independent spirit is reflected in the number of businesses where just the owner runs the show. Between 2002 and 2004, 5,715 nonemployer firms were established in Montana, a 7.8% growth rate. In addition, according to the U.S. Census Bureau July release of Nonemployer Statistics, receipts and sales for these businesses grew 16.9%, from \$2.6 million to \$3.0 million.

Of the 78,703 nonemployer establishments in Montana, nearly 17% work in the Construction industry as mainly Specialty Trade Contractors. Personal and Laundry Services businesses represents over half of the 10,905 firms in the Other (Consumer) Services sector. Accounting for 12% of all nonemployer firms in Montana is the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services sector. Commodity inspectors, pipeline and power line inspectors and consumer credit counselors comprise nearly a third of the businesses in this industry.

Naturally, Montana's most populated counties (Yellowstone, Missoula, Flathead and Gallatin) host the most nonemployer businesses (see data map - [http://ceic.mt.gov/graphics/Data\\_Maps/Nonemployer04.pdf](http://ceic.mt.gov/graphics/Data_Maps/Nonemployer04.pdf)) However, many of the counties experiencing the largest percentage increase in these firms are some of the smallest. For example, the number of nonemployer businesses in Wibaux County grew 19.4% between 2002 and 2004. The county experiencing the second largest growth spurt was Mineral County, at 15.9%. On the reverse side, Petroleum lost 16.7% of their nonemployer firms, by far the largest loss in the state. Overall, only eight Montana counties experienced a reduction in the number of nonemployer firms (see complete excel file - [http://ceic.mt.gov/Economic/2002-2004\\_mtallcty\\_nonemployer.xls](http://ceic.mt.gov/Economic/2002-2004_mtallcty_nonemployer.xls)).

County	Growth Rate	Rank
Wibaux	19.4%	1
Mineral	15.9%	2
Gallatin	14.2%	3
Powell	13.8%	4
Flathead	11.7%	5
Daniels	11.7%	5
Judith Basin	10.8%	7
Golden Valley	- 6.7%	54
Sheridan	- 7.5%	55
Petroleum	- 16.7%	56

Nonemployer Statistics summarizes the number of establishments and sales or receipts of businesses without paid employees that are subject to federal income tax. Most nonemployers are self-employed individuals operating very small unincorporated businesses, which may or may not be the owner's principal source of income.

#### CONTACT

[Susan Ockert](#)  
[Senior Research Economist](#)

Census and Economic  
Information Center  
Montana Department  
of Commerce  
301 S. Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200505  
Helena, MT 59620  
406.841.2740 Office  
406.841.2702 TDD  
<http://ceic.mt.gov/>

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[Montana by the Numbers](#)

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[Survey of Business Owners,  
American Indian-Owned  
Firms, 2002](#)

**June 21, 2006**

[City/Town Population  
Estimates, 2005](#)

**June 15, 2006**

[County Business Patterns,  
2004](#)

**June 6, 2006**

[Gross State Product, 2005](#)

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Social and Demographic  
Estimates for all States, 2005

State and County Housing  
Unit Estimates, 2005

State and County Population  
by Age, Sex, Race and  
Hispanic Origin, 2005